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THOMPSON'S
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CONNEY ISLAND,
GUIDE,

BEING

A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THIS FAMOUS AND POPULAR WATERING PLACE, SHOWING ALL POINTS OF INTEREST, AND HOW TO FIND THEM, AND OTHER INFORMATION OF OF AN INTERESTING CHARACTER.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A BRIEF REVIEW OF CONEY ISLAND IN THE PAST.

EDITED BY

THOS. L. RUSSELL, Esq.

EDITION OF 1885.

PUBLISHED AND PRINTED BY

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78-80 Cortlandt Street.

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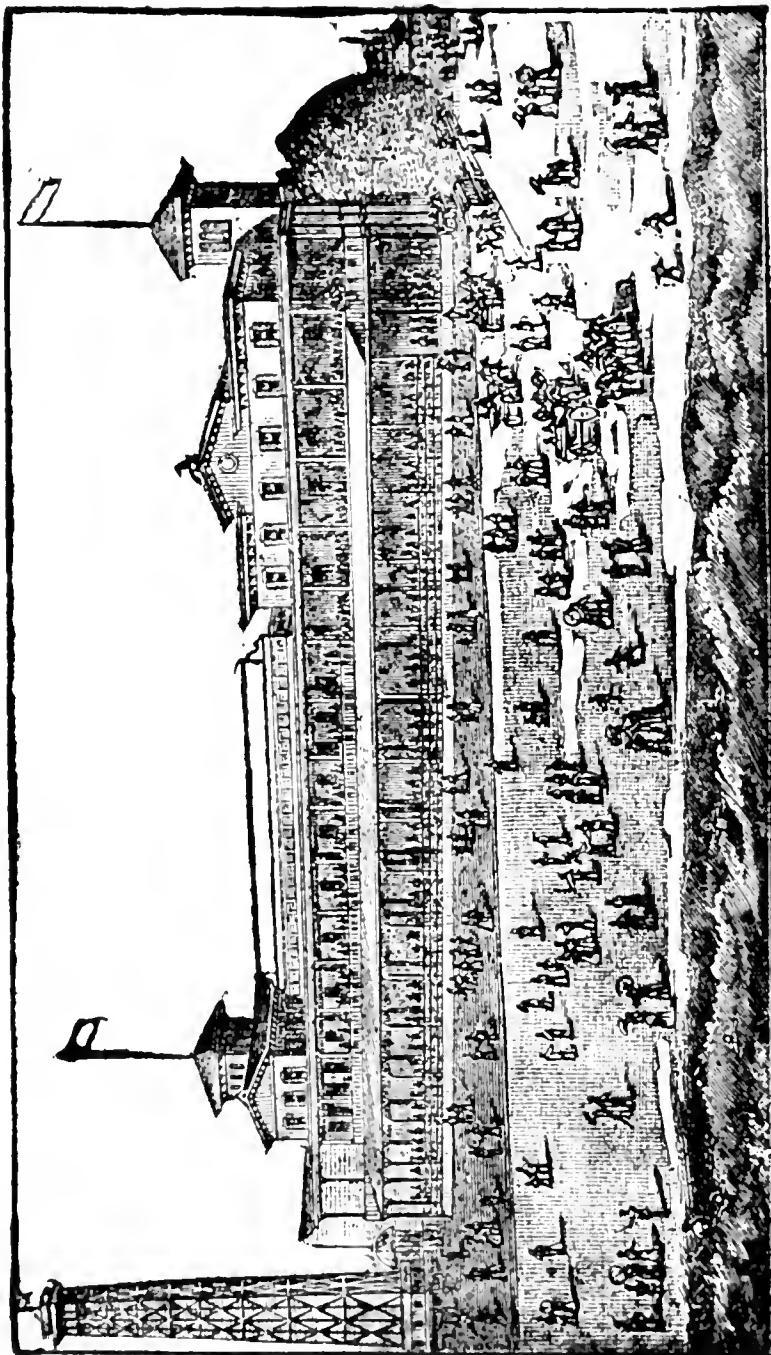
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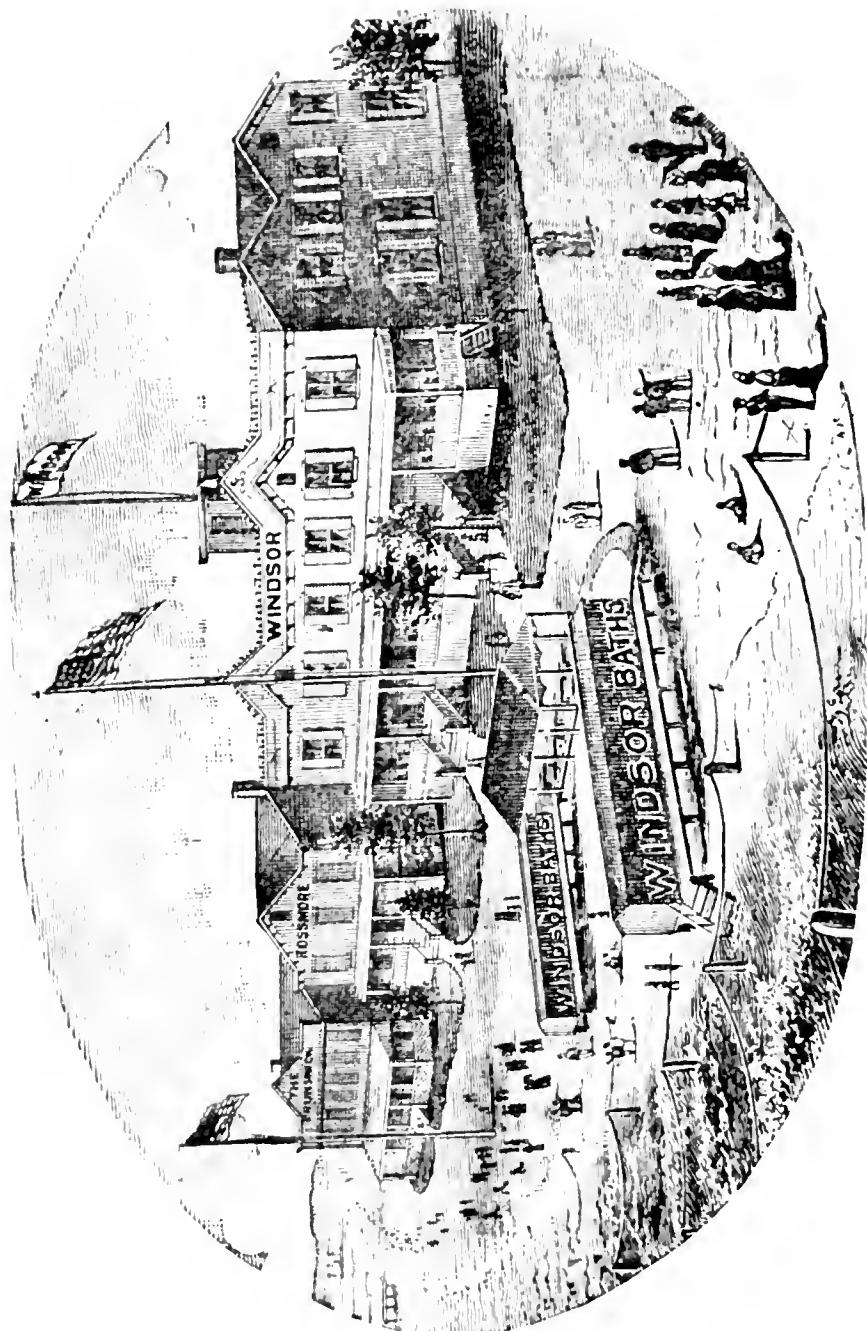
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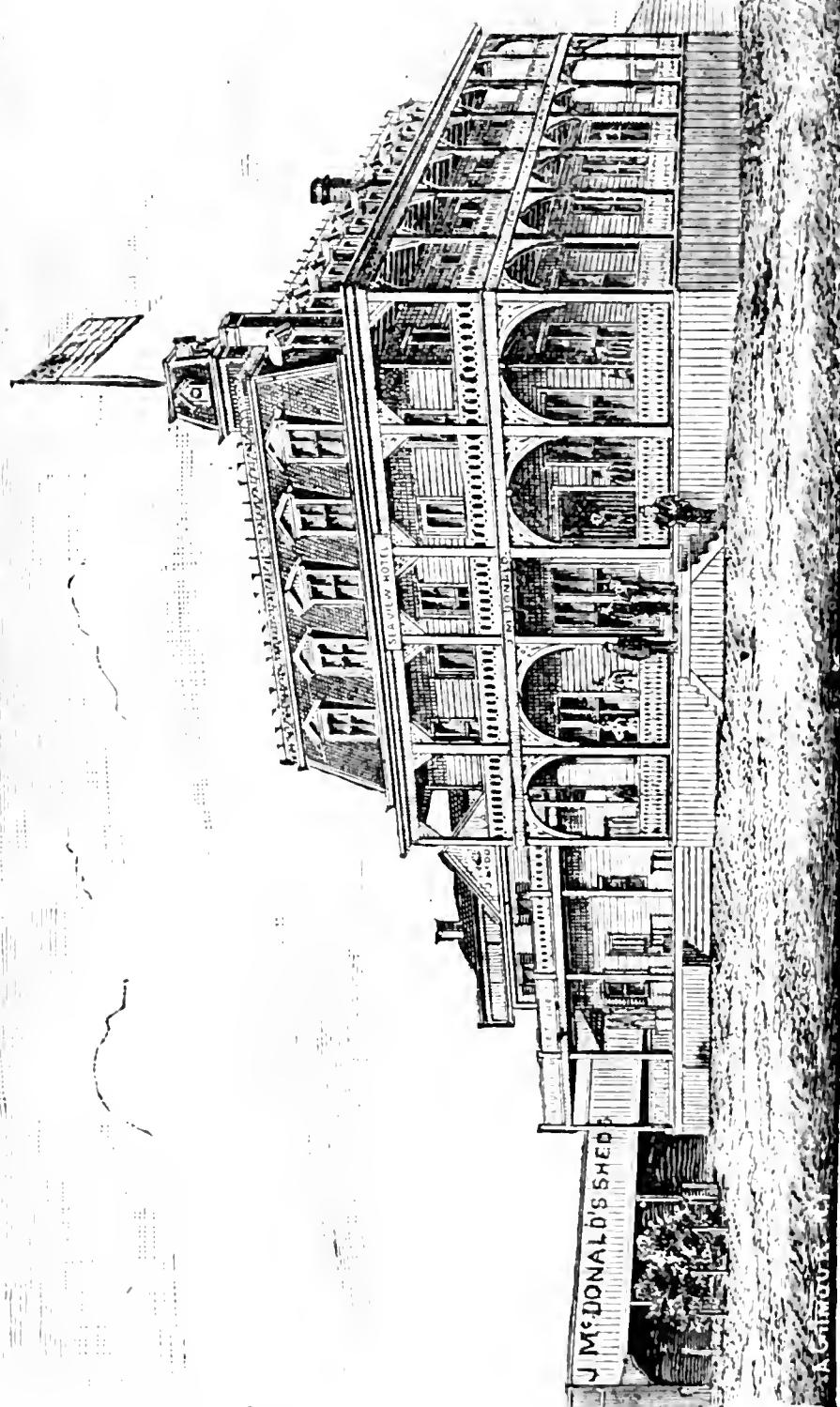
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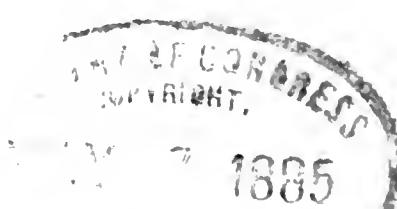
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Time Tables To and From CONEY ISLAND.

Iron Steamboat Co., the only all-water route to the island, landing at the great iron ocean pier. Boats leave W. 23d st., N. R., 9, 10, 11 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 2.45, 3.30, 4.15, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, p. m. Leave pier 1, N. R. (Battery Place) 30 minutes later. Fare 40 cts.; Excursion, 50 cts.

Manhattan Beach. Direct Route via 34th st. ferry; leaving 6.15, 8.30 and hourly from 10.20 a. m. to 7.20 p. m. Leave E. 7th st. ferry every 20 min., and James Slip Ferry, every 30 min. from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m. Leave Manhattan Beach, 7.35, 10 a. m. and hourly from 11.25 a. m. to 8.25 p. m. Excursion tickets, 50 cts. VIA BAY RIDGE. Leave foot of Whitehall street. (terminus of all elevated railways) hourly from 9.12 a. m. to 7.12 p. m.; returning, leave Manhattan Beach hourly from 8.15 a. m. to 8.15 p. m.

Prospect Park and Coney Island R. R. Brooklyn depot, 9th ave, and 20th st. Trains leave depot in Brooklyn for West Brighton at 6.30, 7.35, 9, 10, 11, a. m., 12 m., 12.30, 1, 1.30, 2, 2.30, 3, 3.30, 4, 4.30 5, 5.30, 6, 6.30, 7, 8, 9 p. m. Returning trains leave West Brighton at 7, 8.05, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30 a. m., 12.30, 1, 1.30, 2, 2.30, 3, 3.30, 4, 4.30, 5, 5.30, 6, 6.30, 7, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30 p. m. Excursion, 25 cts.; children over 5, 15 cts., under 5, free,

New York and Sea Beach R. R. (by steamer from New York to Bay Ridge) boats from New York every 20 and 40 minutes, according to the necessities of travel, from W. 22d st., W. 10th st., and Pier 6, N. R. Excursion, gentlemen 40 cts.; Ladies, 30 cts., children, 15 cts.

Brooklyn, Flatbush and Coney Island Railway. Brooklyn depot, Bedford Station, cor. Atlantic and Franklyn avenues, whence trains leave for Brighton Beach, at 6.55 (Sundays ex.), 8.30, 10, 11.30, a. m., 1.30, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30 and 5.30, p. m. Returning leave Brighton Beach at 7.55 (Sundays ex.), 9.30, 11, a. m., 12.30, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.10 p. m. Sunday trains run every half hour from 1.30 to 6, p. m. Excursion 30 cts. Single trip, 20c.

INTRODUCTORY.

LONG ISLAND, who's "sea-girt shore" stretches for one hundred miles along the Atlantic coast, has within the last decade come into prominence as the great watering district of the American Continent ; and probably no territory from Baffin Bay to Terra del Fuego, presents attributes for the establishment of summer resorts to so great a degree as this ISLAND where-of we speak. From the village of Bath to Montauk Point, the southern shore is almost one unbroken sandy beach, where the bather can plunge in the surf and frolic among the breakers to his heart's content ; while in the many beautiful inlets and bays on the northern side, the more timid can lave in placid waters, and dip in the salt sea without the many misgivings awakened by the roar and foam of the billowy Atlantic.

To wade upon the silvery sands at Orient, to stroll along the pebbly strands of Peconic Bay, or meander amid the boulders and cliffs of Montauk, and listen to the weird music of the wild sea waves, is delightful beyond measure : to ramble throughout the diversified landscapes, and picturesque scenery of the interior, its pastoral fields, its beautiful villas, its hills and dales, its dells and dingles, its rills and rivulets ; to loiter by its babbling brooks, and hearken to the murmurings of their rippling waters, to cull the flowers that blossom on their borders, to angle on their shingly bottoms, while the melodies of woodland song birds are warbled in your ear, is enchant-

ment to the sentimentalist, a relaxation from the cares, toil, struggles, and turmoil of city life, nowhere to be more completely enjoyed, than on this ISLAND by the sea. Yachting, boating, fishing, shooting, and driving can be most profitably indulged in by those whose tendencies carry them to this line of sport.

Geographically considered, Long Island has many advantages; its close proximity to the great Metropolis makes it accessible from all the important centres of the eastern and middle states; the same highways that bring the countless numbers to New York City being the direct routes to Long Island. Here, also, nature has been most bounteous in bestowing her favors; the low temperature, the salubrious air, the invigorating sea breeze, the piscatorial wealth, the delicious bivalves, the unexcelled garden products, and the abundance of pure crystalline water, gives health, comfort and recreation to the summer sojourner.

As the Island upon which our little volume treats is a portion of Long Island (an island within an island,) we thought it would not be amiss to make the above allusions; from observations made during many reconnoiters from Bath to Montauk, we feel all we say to be true; and for the benefit of the Metropolitan it cannot be said too often.

Space not permitting us to extend this theme further, we shall proceed with our real task, and try to render our readers an intelligent description of the popular summer resort of the western world - CONEY ISLAND,

CONEY ISLAND.

RETROSPECTIVE.

On the south-western extremity of Long Island, where the waters of the noble Hudson flow through the Lower New York Bay to join the Ocean, is situated this now celebrated resort, the "ultima thule" of the pleasure seekers expectations.

Beginning at Gravesend Bay, a cove designated on the map by that title, it presents for five miles in an easterly direction, a gradual sloping beach, which, to the whilom New Yorker, was the ideal spot to enjoy the caresses of the old Atlantie. From the eastern end of the Island, - what was known to the writer as Pelican Beach, now Manhattan Beach, and where within his recollection, and he is not very old either, snipe, plover, and other game were plentiful, - projects a narrow point of sand, forming a bay famous as a fishing place, called Sheepshead Bay after the delicious fish of that name which in remote ages was supposed to have harbored within its borders. From Sheepshead Bay in a westerly direction runs Coney Island Creek, to Gravesend Bay, thus making the circuit of the Island - a barren sandy waste, metamorphosed by capital and enterprise, into an island of enchantment, so far as enchantment is compatable with business principles.

In former years the attractions that lured visitors to the island consisted of a sail down the bay in a

dilapidated steamer, a dash in the surf, a promenade upon the sands, a carousal, the exhilarating sea breeze, and a good fish or clam dinner at the hostellries, if the unpretending sheds, where good fish and bad whiskey were dispensed, could be dignified by such a title ; these places were few in number, and situated towards the west end ; the entertainment they afforded was not calculated to please the fastidious taste ; the dainty found no morsel to their liking, and the élite, when they sought the pleasures of the Island, enjoyed them sub rosa. Wyckoff, Van Sicklen, Felter and Rodger, were the famous publicans of the time ; Weykoff was admitted to be pioneer ; but it was a matter of contention which was " King of Coney Island," they all reigned by turns, tis believed, although history has neglected to chronicle the realm in this regard.

During midsummer when old Sol tormented the busy denizens of the city with his unremitting rays, as many as a thousand persons have at one time here sought the cool comfort of the sea side ; but generally the excursionists numbered much less. An impromptu dance at the hotels to the music of a fiddle, was the Terpsichorean feature ; and a stray trio of Ethiopian minstrels with banjo, bones and tambourine, or an itinerant piper, harpist or violinist, furnished the orchestral display.

Adjacent to the hotels were rows of bathing houses, looking like rickety sentry boxes, for the accommodation of bathers, to be hired including towel and bathing clothes, for two shillings for each person.

Daring the summer afternoons life and merriment prevailed, sometimes verging into debauchery ; the bar rooms were well patronized, and sports and buffoonery incidental thereto carried on. Frequently a fracas occurred between those of diverse opinions and combative instincts, but being generally confined to the " Buffer " element, in and around the bar rooms, seldom marred the pleasures of the orderly classes ; with the departure of the evening boat the Island became comparatively desolate ; except from the hilarity of bathing parties, the orgies of drunken brawlers, and nocturnal poker players, the night was dismal enough.

From a point in the town of Gravesend, adjacent to where is now located the Prospect Park Fair Grounds, ran the Shell Road, the popular drive to Coney Island, and for years the only approach to the frequented portion of the beach available for vehicles. This road was from the city by two avenues namely: the Fort Hamilton Road, and the Flatbush Turnpike, equally pleasant routes. The former presented a full view of New York Bay, and the latter passed through a fertile district abounding in quaint old homesteads, neat cottages, and well planted gardens. By the way of Fort Hamilton, we went through State Lane in the town of New Utrecht by the old stone church (still standing,) at the junction of the Bath and New Utrecht roads, to the King's Highway, thence to the "Old Shell Road. By the Turnpike, we passed over Prospect Hill, paid toll at Valley Grove, rode through the villages of Flatbush and Flatlands, through the town

of Gravesend to Shell Road, and down Shell Road, over the bridge at Coney Island Creek, to the Beach.

The Fort Hamilton Road, was the choice of New Yorkers, the Turnpike, of Brooklynites, though the faces of many old time sports from both cities, since gone "over to the majority," were familiar on both roads ; so too, like the many kindly spirits that were wont to enliven the scenes with their jolly presence, has the glory of the old roads departed, and where once the fleet trotter coursed over graveled road-beds, the rumble of the dray, and the thud of the truck, is heard on heavy pavements ; and even the "Old Shell Road" echoes the snort of the "Iron Horse."

In more recent years Coney Island Road was opened, and travel to the beach deserted the old for the new road, which became the popular drive to the shore, and so remained until about the year 1858, when it was given over to the Horse Railroad, (still in operation.) During the later years of its popularity, it became notorious for the number of vile houses that offered inducements of an immoral kind to the thoughtless and the vicious ; shunned by the respectable, and obstructed by the railroad, it soon came to disuse, save by that class who were not over particular in their pleasures. On the completion of the boulevard known as the Ocean Park Way, (of which we shall speak hereafter,) Coney Island Road passed from existence as a drive.

For several years prior to 1875 the Island was in disrepute, as it was to a great extent the rendezvous roughs and rowdies ; disorder, gambling, drinking

and lewdness were the prevailing characteristics ; the Sweat Cloth, Roulette and Monte were operated openly upon the beach without fear of interference from the authorities as there seemed to be no authority to interfere ; Thimble Rigging, the Patent Safe Game, and kindred swindles, were played upon the credulous and unsophisticated, whom chance seemed to place at the mercy of the human vultures who thronged the beach in quest of prey. But with the year above mentioned, a new era dawned upon this favored place ; a number of enterprising Gentlemen and Capitalists secured control of the eastern end, - or Manhattan Beach,—with a view to the improvement thereof, and the erection of the mammoth caravansary that was opened to the public in 1877.

The plan for the development of Manhattan Beach embraced the building of a railroad connecting New York City with that place ; and so quietly and unostentatiously were these plans matured, that the hotel and railway with their appurtenances were completed before the general public was aware that even the construction of so important an undertaking was contemplated. Minerva-like, it came into existence, “ all armed and ready for the fray,” if we may be permitted to use that phrase to express the friendly contact that took place during the opening season between the thousands of visitors and the projectors of the enterprise.

The success at Manhattan Beach gave an impetus to other sections of the Island ; other railroad facilities were constructed ; spacious hotels and minor

places of amusement sprung up in all directions ; excellent police protection was inaugurated ; the rowdy element was forced to succumb to law and order ; and that prosperity, unexampled in the history of watering places, was begun, that has made "Coney Island," as familiar as a household word, in every portion of the land.

* * *

DESCRIPTIVE.

Ten miles from the City Hall in New York City, in a southerly direction, is situated Coney Island. It is five miles in length, and varies in width from a few feet to nearly a mile, the greatest width being at the central part, and the narrowest being at the extreme eastern end. It is bounded on the north by Coney Island Creek, on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, on the west by Gravesend Bay, and on the east by Sheepshead Bay. It is in the Township of Gravesend, County of Kings, State of New York.

The Island, in its natural condition, was of sandy soil entirely void of vegetation, as it is at the present time, with the exception of the floral displays at the hotels, for which purpose a subsoil was created, by transporting loam from the interior, and arranging the same into the beautiful flower beds that relieve the eye, and perfume the air.

The Island is now divided into localities, each possessing some particular feature to engross the attention and augment the pleasures of the visitor. These localities are designated as Norton's Point, West

End, West Brighton, Brighton Beach, and Manhattan Beach ; Norton's Point and West End being that stretch of about a mile lying at the western extreme ; West Brighton, that adjoining West End eastward, and running to the Concourse ; Brighton Beach, that commencing at the Concourse continues to Manhattan Beach, which for two miles occupies the eastern division. The attractions of these several places are varied, each representing characteristics of their own, of which we shall make special mention further on.

It is estimated that at least 40,000 persons visit the Island daily, from the opening of the season June 1st, to the close thereof in October ; and on holidays, special occasions and Sundays, the number often exceeds 100,000. It is an interesting diversion to sit by the water's edge and decant on the incongruous mass that passes by : the phlegmatic Teuton with "meine frau und kinder alt und jung," the burly Hibernian out for a lark and determined to have it, the complaisant Frank, the inflexible Briton, and the calculating Yankee ; the Governor, the Senator, the Ambassador ; the simpering maid and stately matron ; the happy benedict and crabbed bachelor ; the cooing lovers and prattling children. Here the elements of human nature do most beautifully compound ; here the old, the young, the fat, the lean, the short, the tall, the dull, the gay, resort, to relieve the tedium of city life, and enjoy the blessings of friend Neptune ; so too, at the hotels, during the afternoon concerts, one can lounge on the balcony, or seated at the music stand listen to the

delightful strains of excellent musicians, and view humanity in all its complex forms.

No little inducement at the Island is the magnitude and variety of the cuisine, anything in the edible line from a sandwich to a banquet, can be had, and at reasonable prices; the daintiest tidbits for those of delicate taste, and the most substantial solids for voracious appetites, are always ready and in constant demand; for the sea air is no common appetizer, hence a visit to the Island and a feast is one and inseparable. As a dry meal is but an aggravation, the thoughtful caterers provide lists of liquid essentials, ranging from "chatty Widow Cliequot," to the discreet soda water, and among which the "foaming glass of beer" holds no minor place.

Though the prices for refreshments are not excessive, yet there are many that seek the pleasures of the Island whose purse will not keep pace with their wants in this direction, that, in the cause of economy, prepare a hamper at home, and bring their lunch with them. There are those who prefer this way from choice; for these classes there are ample accommodations in every locality of the Island, places where tables and seats are set aside for this very purpose, known as "basket places," and where coffee, tea, milk and other drinkables can be obtained. 'Tis often a pleasant sight to watch the family group taking their frugal repast, and see the gusto which the little ones enjoy the good things mamma prepares; we have often wondered, as we viewed the bounteous spread of these prudent people, wherein their consistency as economists begins.

The conveyances for the transit of passengers between the different parts of the Island are numerous, and being constantly in motion, add to the continuous bustle, so noticeable and attractive to the stranger ; they are of various styles and sizes, light and easy of gear, and peculiarly adapted to travel in the sand ; you have your choice of stage, barouche or carryall, and have no excuse for leg weariness, as the fares are moderate and within the means of all ; besides the omnibuses there are the Marine Railways, which will carry you along the Island for five cents.

They that prefer to promenade and linger amid the gayety of the hotels, can do so without discomfiture from the sand, as the areas surrounding the hotels are planked over, making immense platforms, even to the water's edge.

Nowhere else in the world are the facilities for bathing equal to those of the Island ; large, commodious structures, complete in every accommodation, and conducted in the most proper manner, with all the auxiliaries for sea bathing, are at the service of the public, at moderate rates ; Nature and Art seem to vie with each other to serve the public in this respect. Around and about the bathing places there are constantly gathered large concourses of people enjoying the antics of the bathers. Seats are provided for their comfort, and the sun may be enjoyed without becoming irksome. It is a common thing on a warm summer's day to see hundreds of men, women and children, splashing and floundering in the water at one time ; while at night under the rays of the

electric lamp, one can form illusions of dolphins and mermaids, nymphs and peris, and fancy themselves in the realms of the Naiads.

The lovers of music--what a cheerless soul it must be with no love of music,--will find delight in the afternoon and evening concerts given at the grand music stands of the principle hotels ; the performers are selected with the greatest care, and the rivalry to secure the best musical talent as general performers and soloists results in the organization of orchestras of great merit, and led as they all are by celebrated virtuosos, they present a repertoire of original and selected pieces that never fail to gain the plaudits and appreciation of the multitude ; and the most critical Philharmonist seldom find occasion to speak other than praise of these concerts. If perchance there should be any who prefer to listen to music of a less imposing kind, they that admire the twanging of the hurdy-gurdy, or the ding of the hand organ, there are localities where their musical taste can be satiated, where they may drink in the soul stirring strain of "Nancy Lee," while feasting their eyes upon strange and wonderful things that a true appreciation of this kind of music entail.

All portions of the Island abound with novelties for sight-seers : Horse racing billiards, ten-pins, museums, minstrelsy, necromancy, aerobatic feats, dancing, etc., and the veritable ancient Punch and Judy, with other shows of that kind, are there to amuse and delight the children.

Many articles of use, and fancy trinkets are ex-

posed for sale ; several photographic artists, with all the necessary paraphernalia of the trade, furnish you a pleasing souvenir of your visit. A well appointed pharmacy with competent attaches administer to your ailments, concocting, compounding, and prescribing emulsions, febrifuges, correctives, and mineral waters, as the case may demand ; also choice perfumery and fine toilet notions are here kept.

Removed from the bathing pavilions, as we stroll along the beach, numbers of merry children will be seen wading in the water, their little bare feet kissed, as it were, with the spent breaker, while here and there, clusters of little ones pass happy hours delving in the sand, building and rebuilding frail castles, and constructing other works of infantile fancy ; the implements for their play,—a toy shovel and pail—can be bought for a trifle, and are vended upon the beach in great numbers.

In fact nearly every comfort, luxury and amusement for the enjoyment of man, woman or child, can be found at the Island ; and although a flying visit may refresh the spirits and lighten the heart, it would require many days to partake of all the pleasures, or see all the sights, its several localities present. Suffice it to say, that no other resort in the world has so many attractions to meet the public fancy ; no city in Europe and none in America, excepting New York, Brooklyn, and San Francisco, commands within half an hour's ride, so grand an ocean view, or access to so magnificent a beach, as the Island affords.

MANHATTAN BEACH,

Which claims our first attention, lies at the eastern end of the Island, and is patronized by the élite of New York Society who choose to favor Coney Island with their presence. A greater capital is probably here invested—under one corporation—than in any other watering place upon the Atlantic coast. The property of the Manhattan Beach Company embraces the Oriental and Manhattan hotels, the picnic and bathing pavilions, and the Firework's Park.

THE ORIENTAL HOTEL, being that large and beautiful structure furthest east, is as complete in all its parts as it is possible to build a hotel in this portion of the nineteenth century. It has 465 rooms, which are furnished in elegant style, and the character of its guests are of the exclusive class. It is run on the table d'hôte plan, and its larder embraces every delicacy of the season. Quiet and refinement are its prevailing characteristics, and although a most delightful retreat for its guests, while there are so many points of popular interest on the Island, the general public find little to draw them to its grounds, save the magnitude and beauty of its surroundings.

THE MANHATTAN BEACH HOTEL, the grounds of which adjoin those of the Oriental to the westward is the center of attraction for the select thousand, that visit this section of the Island daily, and is the especial delight of the opulent and high-toned New Yorker. In its arrangement and management it is

well calculated for the entertainment of the public, and the comfort and pleasure of its patrons. The restaurant department is served à la carte, and it would be quite superfluous to revert to the excellency thereof; the vast dining room can accommodate 1,200 persons at one time, and the tables during afternoon and evening are always occupied. During the sultry days of midsummer, many thousands refresh the inner man at the restaurant and bar; and upon the room balcony that runs along the entire facade of the building, the social little coteries to be seen partaking of Manhattan's good cheer, —“otium cum dignitate,” as is always the rule here, would disarrange the equipoise of the most bilious temperament. The “swells” and “nabobs” of European aristocracy favor Manhattan, and a stray duke, marquis, earl, or possibly a prince, may be found hovering around incognito.

THE PICNIC PAVILION, adjacent to the hotel, is for the accommodation of those that bring their luncheon with them; the establishment of this place was a necessity, as at times excursionists of this kind would occupy the hotel balcony, to the exclusion of regular guests.

THE BATHING PAVILION, is as nigh an approach to perfection as the ingenuity of the age can make it; every requisite for the comfort, and every device for the safety of bathers is provided.

THE GRAND MUSIC STAND, where daily concerts are given, is directly in front of Manhattan Hotel; and seats, “free gratis” for the accommodation of many hundreds, face the orchestra.

IN THE FIREWORKS INCLOSURE, truly brilliant pyrotechnical displays are given here at stated intervals.

* * *

BRIGHTON BEACH.

This famous resort lies contiguous to Manhattan Beach, and embrace many qualities that have given Manhattan so exalted a reputation; somewhat more Cosmopolitan however in its character, there is a free and easy going style among its patrons, that makes strangers at home the moment they step upon its domain; it is a favorite trysting place for prominent men of all professions.

THE BRIGHTON BEACH HOTEL. Beneath the eaves of this magnificent building, on the broad and commodious balcony, there can be seen daily, groups of distinguished people discussing important topics and sumptuous dinners, both with equal interest. The broker, the speculator, the inventor, the philosopher, the actor, the sportsman, etc., gather here to mingle business with pleasure, and often "enterprises of great pith and moment," are inaugurated. Within its spacious halls, conclaves of politicians are often held, and schemes of great magnitude are modeled and remodeled, that reverberate throughout the entire Nation; within its precincts the Cabinet Minister and the Ward constable, roam with equal freedom; and the uninitiated that visit the beach, in hope of feasting their eyes upon the magnates of the land, will find it difficult to discern "the t'other from which," so close is the similarity. Bevies of beautiful ladies grace the

promenades and the corridors. The Bill of Fare is an Epicurean Gospel; and Epicurus himself would have solved the problem of his philosophy, had he been permitted to spend a few hours at Brighton Beach.

THE MUSIC STAND, encircled by settees, is directly in front of the hotel, where the public are invited to enjoy the afternoon and evening concerts. The music at Brighton is proverbially incomparable.

THE BATHING PAVILION, across the esplanade, has accommodations for a great number of bathers; a refectory, a bar-room, a large platform where we may set and eat our home made lunch, a silk factory, making scarfs and kerchiefs, and a dime museum, where the fat woman and the living skeleton, the giant and the midget abide in contentment.

RACE COURSE. The Brighton Beach Race Course is situated back of the hotel, and during the racing season is well patronized by the votaries of the turf; many exciting contests, between the best horses of the land take place here, whereat the bookmakers drive a flourishing trade. Nearly every day during the season, there are races at this place, or at Coney Island Race Course, which lies a short distance further east towards Sheepshead Bay.

FIREWORKS. The firework nights at Brighton call together multitudes, and the display, given openly on the beach, is very grand.

Leaving Brighton for West Brighton, there are two modes of transit, one by the Elevated R. R., the depot of which is directly east of the Brighton

Hotel; the other by the boulevard, called Surf Avenue, in stages that ply between these places. It is a pleasant stroll for pedestrians—the distance is not very great—over the concrete walk to the left of the boulevard, known as the Concourse. Leaving Brighton Beach Hotel, you approach a large structure to the right of the road. This is the Ocean Hotel, to which is attached a bathing pavilion. On the left there is a photographer's studio. About midway on the right the GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, marks the junction of the Ocean Park Way and Surf Avenue; on the concourse opposite the parkway, a summer house gives to promenaders a chance to rest; a few rods further on is the SEA SIDE HOME FOR CHILDREN, a "sanitarium" managed by a committee of benevolent ladies—an asylum by the sea where the afflicted children of the poor may enjoy the same sea air as the offsprings of wealth.

Here, also, is the terminus of the horse railroad from Brooklyn, or what was once the popular Coney Island road. Several hotels cluster around this old spot, notable the GRAND UNION HOTEL. This house has a commanding and unobstructed view of the Atlantic Ocean, and is one of the popular resorts on the Island. A short distance back, in a clump of trees, stands a relic of the past, THOMPSON'S HOTEL. At the junction of this road and the boulevard, is VANDERVEERS HOTEL and stables, the depot for the B. B. & W. B. stages; and if perchance in winter, when rude Boreas blows his keenest blast, and Jack Frost mantles the earth, we shall find ourselves at the Island, we may know there is shelter,

a warm stove and a knife and fork, at Vanderveers—he keeps open all the year round.

* *

WEST BRIGHTON

Is about a mile from Brighton Beach,—west—and is to the democratic masses the real Coney Island. Distinction of class or person never has nor never will be tolerated here, but in the good old democratic fashion, “you pays your money and you has your choice,” and no matter how fanciful you may be, there is variety enough to choose from. In this “go-as-you-please” district there are no chilling formalities; obey the laws of decency, and you have more freedom and less restraint than was vouchsafed “Bold Morgan McCarthy from Trim,” at a “Donnybrook Fair.”

On reaching West Brighton we are bewildered by the multiplicity of inducements offered for our entertainment, both mentally and physically. We hardly know where to begin, and if it is our intention to see everything, we surely can’t tell where and when we will end. Conspicuous is the OBSERVATORY, towering high towards the sky, from the top of which a broad view of sea and land can be had. If you have come to Coney Island for a “high time,” and mean to get “elevated,” ascend this tower, and from its summit drink in the beauties of Nature; your spree will be moderate and so will be the expense. The height of this tower is 300 feet above the level of the sea.

Nigh to the observatory will be seen the Great Natural Curiosity, “a live cow stuffed with straw,”—

as we once heard a "jokist" call it—that yields one hundred gallons of ice cold milk per day, and more if necessity demands it; milk pure and sweet, like the pretty dairy maids that serve it to customers at a nickle per glass.

They that choose to ignore the lacteal fluid for something of more pungent taste, will find the dairy flanked on the left by a mill, where sweet cider, "fresh from the press," is sold by the glass; while at a pagoda on the right, a glass of "sparkling champagne, on draught" is drawn for a dime. Close by, they fizz of soda water at popular pricess for the extremely temperate; lemonade, mead and other temperate beverages are also vended. Pie, cake and bon-bon merchants are numerous, and at booths laden with confections the "sweet tooth" is provided for. Under a shed near the observatory a pan of succulent clams await your order for roasting; and the fried Frankfurt sausage man is at all times ready with his savory dish.

That machine, like an antiquated air pump in appearance, will tell your pulling strength; and the one beside it, your striking force. The man with rueful visage, owns the blowing machine, such wonderful phenoma in this line has he met since he came to the Island, that he mourns the incapacity of his machine to test their powers—for ordinary mortals his apparatus is adequate to the fiercest blast. Your silver-haired Mentor, with polished scales and dignified mien, tells your weight to the exact notch, for 5 cents.

Would you please the children? then there are

swings in which they delight to sway to and fro, or the merry-go-round whirling around to the din of a hand organ; the boys can straddle make-believe horses, and the girls can sit in the carioles and have a jolly ride.

The box-like building opposite the swings, placarded with grotesque figures, is a museum, filled with animate and inanimate wonders. The camera obscura by the road-side, reflects a condensed view of the surrounding territory. Many other kindred attractions take transient quarters in this versatile place, and the cries of the pop-corn and pea nut men, and itinerants of that ilk, add to the general hubbub.

THE BRIGHTON PIER AND NAVIGATION CO. owns and controls the long pier at this point, which presents so imposing a frontage. The ponderous looking building by the easterly side of the pier is a BATHING ESTABLISHMENT, Bar and Restaurant; the conveniences provided for the comfort of bathers, and the natural adaptation of the beach, makes it a favorite bathing ground. On the west side of the approach to the pier is situated a large basket pavilion for picnic parties, where such fare as families and excursionists may require, can be obtained. The old CABLE HOTEL, once the pride of its class, and the first of the "palace hotels" now so plentiful on the Island, is conducted mainly as a sea-side boarding house, yet transient customers are well attended at the bar and restaurant.

Contiguous to Cable's, is the new depot of the PROSPECT PARK AND CONEY ISLAND R. R., constructed

chiefly for the use of passengers by this route, and certainly they are well cared for, as the appointments are all of a superior order. On the ground floor there is an elegantly furnished ladies parlor, toilet, etc., ample waiting rooms; the second floor is used by the company for offices. Adjoining Cable's east is the W. B. depot of the Elevated R. R.

WEST BRIGHTON BEACH HOTEL. On the left of the boulevard, across the broad plaza, is BAUER's hotel, pavilion, restaurant, terrace, billiard saloon, shooting gallery and bath houses. The hotel has 100 well furnished sleeping apartments, the restaurant and pavilion can accommodate many thousands, and in the turrets that adorn the building there are elegantly furnished rooms where retired parties can escape the throng below. In the interior of the main building a female orchestra discourses "sweet music;" at the pavilion—encroaching upon the sea,—a military band give day and evening concerts. Bauer's is the popular rendezvous of our German citizens, wine, lager, switzerkase, bologna and bretzels, are served as gracefully as is the "table d'hote" he prepares. Beyond the pavilion there are ample bathing facilities, and the best voucher for their excellence is the constant demand for their use. Several noted singing societies have their masquerades here, during the season, when the building, interior and exterior, is most fantastically decorated with bunting, garlands and grotesque figures, and the plaza is illuminated with many-hued lamps; on these gala nights, 20,000 people assemble in and around the hotel, the ma-

jority dressed in every conceivable garb, from a king to a monkey, "tripping the light fantastic toe till day light doth appear." The excitement and tumult of these carnivals, are things never to be forgotten by those who have participated in these festivities.

BAUER'S CLUB HOUSE, on the opposite side of Surf Avenue, is a sort of an addenda to the hotel.

THE IRON PIER. To the east of Bauer's, jutting into the sea for 1,400 feet, by 130 feet in width, is the pier of the Ocean Navigation and Pier Company, established in 1879 as a landing place for visitors by steamboat. This pier has within itself all the adjuncts for a day's pleasure, viz: fine music, a good restaurant, bathing, etc. Many remain within its limits, finding all that an excursionist may desire. The constantly prevailing breeze, that even the heated term cannot subdue, entice passengers by rail to enter and regale themselves in the invigorating atmosphere.

FELTMAN'S. The large three-storied building with the conspicuous corridors that meets our view as we leave the pier, is celebrated as Feltman's dancing pavilion. The second floor is one immense dancing hall, where Terpsichore presides supreme, and the fiddle is never silent, or at least so it appears to the writer's experience; when we consider the dancing mania of the age, we cease to wonder at the large numbers of gay young people that seek the maze of the merry dance under Feltman's protection; it is an animated sight to see hundreds of

jauntily attired lads and lasses jigging, shuffling, balancing and piroetting in the Lancers or whirling and sliding in the Waltz—a daily scene here.

Consistent with Coney Island custom, Feltman feeds, as well as fiddles, which fact will be readily recognized by a glimpse at the several departments on the first floor; the mammoth kitchen and victualing house being particularly noticeable, also the variety show.

Leaving Feltman's temple of variety to the east, we may wander for a quarter of a mile through a succession of covered platforms, concert galleries and victualing houses, and make our selections from an "olla podrida" that would eclipse the make-up of a country fair. Franconia automatons, punch-and-judy, jugglers, tumblers, minstrels, singing, dancing, eating, drinking and games of skill and chance, greet you on every quarter to lighten your spirits and your purse, at the same time. The gay and giddy can revel in a thousand pleasurable excitements, and the staid philosopher and stoic, cannot fail to be amused.

The circumspect may be surprised at the apparent familiarity of those that consort here, but when they consider that these parties are in a great measure the sons and daughters of toil, out for a holiday, having for the nonce thrown off the burdensome formalities of every day life to assume a garb of extreme sociability, the better to enjoy all the occasion affords, they will pass upon their frivolity and levity, as the flow of exuberant spirits, freed from conventional restraint.

SEA BEACH.

The point where the Atlantic Ocean is nearest to New York both in distance and time. In point of fact Sea Beach and West Brighton are one and the same.

The SEA BEACH PALACE HOTEL contains over 100 rooms, and a complete restaurant, at popular New York prices. A Genuine Rhode Island Clam Bake served daily on the grounds of this hotel.

SILVER LAKE is a Venetian merry-go-round, with Italian boats on an artificial Lake directly adjoining Sea Beach Palace.

The CONEY ISLAND OLYMPIAN CLUB ROLLER SKATING AND BICYCLING RINK. This spacious iron andglass structure, is a relie of the Centennial Exhibition, transplanted from Philadelphia to its present position as a fitting attribute to the Island. The Rink is the largest and best appointed of its kind in the world, being lavishly supplied with electric lights, Ante Rooms, Cloak Rooms, a large parlor, an immense seating capacity, and possessing splendid ventilation. The Floor, Skates and Music are in charge of competent persons. A first-class restaurant is connected with the Rink.

THE COLOSSOL ELEPHANT is a New Structure. It stands on a platform 350 feet square, in a feeding position. The height is is 123 feet to the top of the Howdah or Observatory, from which a magnifieent view can be had of an area of 50 miles of ocean, the bay of New York, the cities, and all surrounding villages. The "Elephant" is illuminated by electric light and 50 windows.

WEST END

Embraces all that portion of the Island from West Brighton, to the extreme western end, familiar as Norton's Point. The natural beauties of this locality are superior to any other part of the Island; at the point an extended view can be had; Princess Bay, Staten Island, the Narrows, Forts Hamilton and Wadsworth, the beautiful shores of Gravesend Bay, with the village of Bath on its banks, the Jersey Highlands and Sandy Hook in the distance. Capital has not invaded this district in the same ratio as it has the eastern division, hence, its present aspect partakes more of the "Old Coney Island" before spoken of. Several quaint old-fashioned hotels exist in their pristine glory; and there are many Gothamites who so fondly cling to "auld lang syne" that no inducement could swerve their attachment to these ancient sands.

Scattered over West End there are numbers of small enclosures and sheds, "yeleped pavilions," furnishing light refections and bathing facilities, where parties that wish to avoid the commotion betake themselves.

The WINDSOR HOTEL. This house is a first-class family hotel, beautifully sitnated, and first class in every respect. It is under able management, and patrons will find here a delightful home by the sea. The ROSSMORE and WEST END UNION HOTELS stand close by the Windsor depot, of the C. I. P. R. R.; towards W. B., RAVENHALL'S, KATEN'S, RUSHER'S and STRATHMORE, are prominent. Towards the point POINT COMFORT HOUSE has stood the tempest many

years, and still stands to tempt, the thirsty and hungry, with its well stocked cupboards. DOYLE & TANZEY's fishing grounds, an isolated dock some 200 feet off shore, where you may fish until tired for 25 cents, and the old hotel and dock at the point, completes the ensemble of West End.

* * *

OCEAN PARK WAY.

This wide and splendid thoroughfare extends from Prospect Park to Surf Avenue, a distance of about four miles. It is reached by the several routes to Prospect Park, viz.: from the Eastern District, through Bedford Avenue to Sacket Street Boulevard, thence to Prospect Park Plaza, through the park to the Park Way; from the Western District, through Fulton or Atlantic Avenue to Flatbush Avenue, thence to plaza and through the park as above. Along this route there are several well kept road houses, at the junction with Surf Avenue stabling accommodations with proper care for beasts will be found. If, on reaching the Island, it is your intention to visit Brighton Beach, take Surf Avenue to the left; if West Brighton or West End, go to the right there are horse sheds at both places.

On summer afternoons, especially during the racing season, this road is thronged with the princely equipages of the rich, and the high flyers of turf-men; the hackmen claim a place in the rolling pageant, and their claims are allowed.

GENERAL INFORMATION, SEASON OF 1884.

—o—

MUSIC—Manhattan, Grand Orchestra, Gilmore, conductor, afternoon and evening concerts, Sundays sacred music. At the Oriental, a *recherche* programme arranged for string instruments, daily.

Brighton—Dodworth's Military Band, (full reed band,) Harvey B. Dodworth, Director. Soloists: G. Valetti, "Euphonium;" W. C. Bowen, Cornet. Request Programme, Tuesday Brooklyn, Thursday New York; on these days, any person is invited to send a request to the leader to play a certain air; from these requests the programme will be made up.

West Brighton—Bauer's, a female Vienna orchestra in the main building, Madam Roller, conductress. Soloists: violin, Marie Roller; xylophone, Virginia Kronauer; cornet, William Rickel; at the pavilion stand, Arbuckle's Military Band. Soloist, Jules Levy, cornet.

Feltman's—Peter Frank's Band, dancing music.

Old Iron Pier—Continuous music by full band.

Brighton Pier—Orchestral music in connection with other entertainments.

 Afternoon concerts from 4 to 6 P. M., evening concerts from 8 to 10 P. M.

 At Manhattan, Brighton and Bauer's, the concerts are free to the public.

Price of admission to Old Iron Pier, including music, 10 cents.

Sacred music at Sunday concerts by Arbuckle's and Gilmore's Bands.

BATHING.—At the several pavilions the charges for bathing, including rooms and bathing suits, 25 cents; at the western end of the Island there are old fashioned bathing houses where the charge is 20 cents. Parties bathing should always leave their valuables at the office, where they will receive check for the same; this precaution is not to be taken solely on account of theft, but in dressing, etc., articles may fall from the pockets through the perforated floors, which would put them to considerable trouble to recover. The bathing grounds are well guarded by ropes, and boats patrolling the shore; disaster comes only to those, who are over venturesome, and desirous of showing their exploits as swimmers; keep within the prescribed limits, and there is no danger. Warm salt water baths are luxuries to be had at the principal bathing establishments.

CONVEYANCES—Marine Railway from Manhattan to Brighton, fare 5 cents.

Elevated Railway from Brighton to West Brighton, fare 3 cents.

Stages from Brighton to West Brighton, fare 5 cents.

Carriages for special trips, to Norton's Point, etc., can be engaged at reasonable rates, according to length of trip and size of party. Make your bargain before starting, and thus avoid disagreement at end of trip.

ENTERTAINMENTS.—Brighton Pier Casino. Matinees and evening performances daily; tickets, including admission to pier, 50 cts.

Feltman's Variety Show, general admission, 10 cts.

Feltman's Dancing Hall, admission for gentlemen, 25 cts; for ladies, 5 cts.

Brighton Race Course, admission, 50 cts; grand stand, \$1.00; Ladies, 50 cts.

Museum at West Brighton, admission, 10 cts.

Museum at Brighton, admission adults, 15 ets; children 10 ets.

Observatory, West Brighton, adults, 10 ets; children, 5 ets. Sunday prices, 5 ets. in addition to above.

Olympian Club Skating Rink, Sea Beach, general admission, 25 ets; use of skates, 15 ets.

Silver Lake and other merry-go-rounds, 5 ets.

Camera Obscura, 10 ets.

Shooting Gallery, Ball Tossing, Blowing Machine, Weighing Apparatus, Striking Machine, etc., etc., 5 ets. for one or more trials.

REFRESHMENTS.—A very good table d'hote dinner (with wine) may be obtained on the Iron Pier, or at Paul Bauer's, West Brighton, for \$1.00; at Felton's (without wine) 60 ets. Tea, coffee, liquors, cigars, etc., 10 ets. Milk, beer, etc., 5 ets. Pie, sandwiches, Frankfurt sausages, etc., 10 ets. At the Brighton and Manhattan hotels the "menu" is of a superior order, with prices in proportion, though not excessive.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Telegraph stations are located at Brighton and Manhattan hotels, and at depot of Prospect Park and Coney Island R. R.

A pharmacy is located at Brighton, West Brighton and Manhattan Beach.

Family board at reasonable rates can be had at the Windsor hotel, which is patronized by the first families of New York.

Fireworks at Manhattan (Alexandria enclosure) 25 ets.; Brighton Hotel, on the open beach, and at Paul Bauer's, free.

The extreme western end of the island is called Point Breeze.

Prolong your visit till evening. Under the myriads of gas jets and electric lights the island presents a brilliant spectacle.

Preserve our GUIDE TO CONEY ISLAND as a souvenir of the season.

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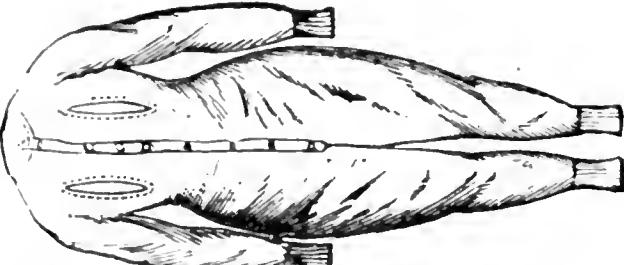
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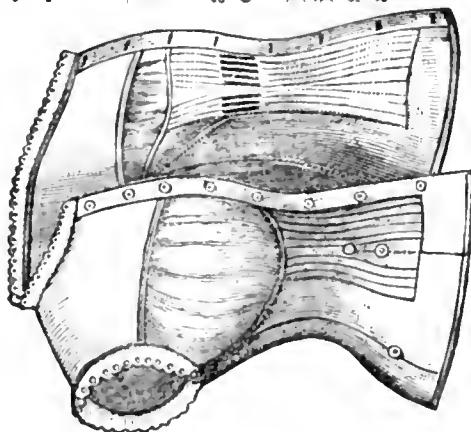
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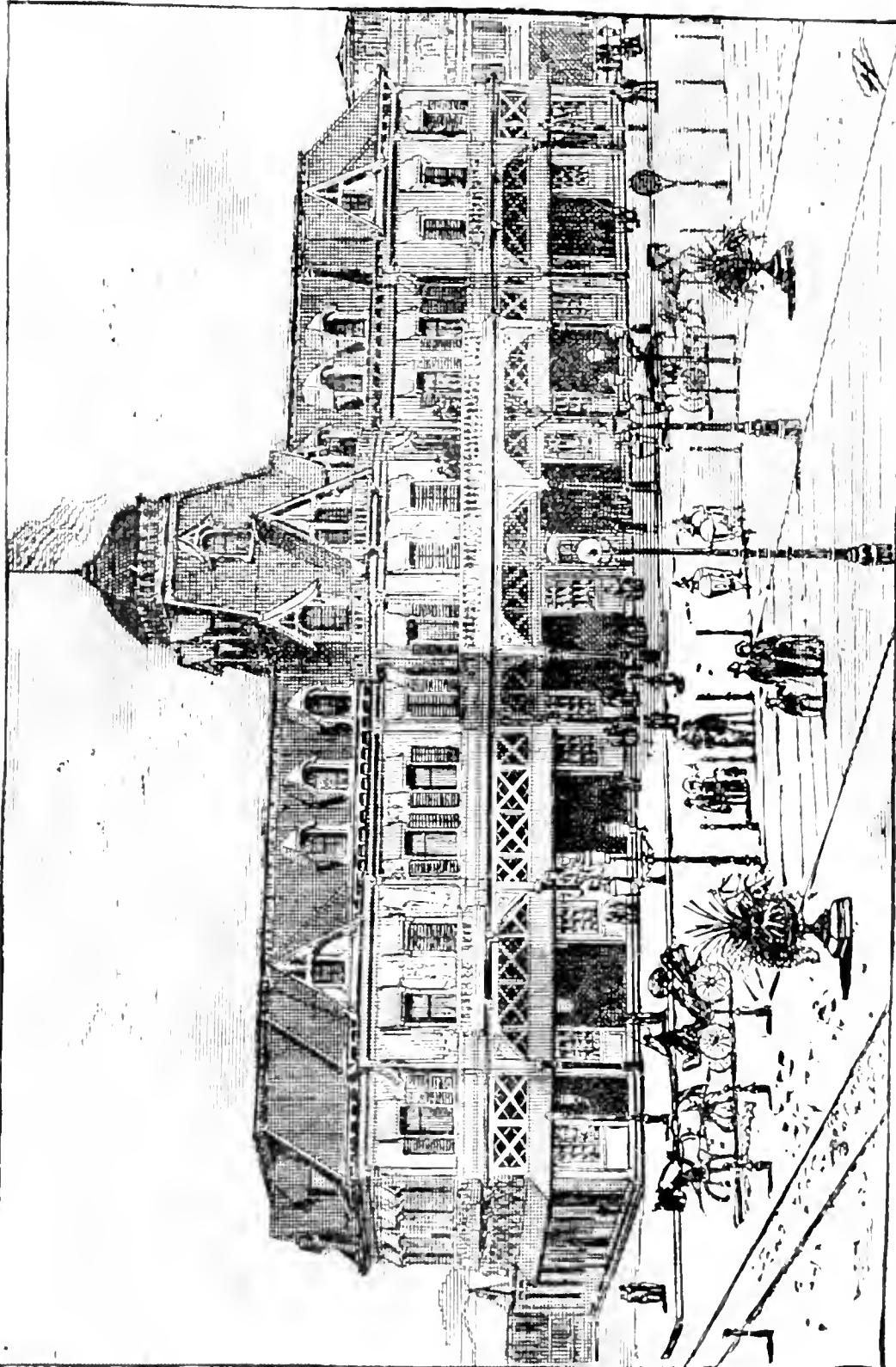
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Highly recommended for **toilet, Bath**; it checks acrid perspiration, at the same time softens the skin, improves the complexion, and removes rapidly **leech worms, pimples, etc.** Used after shaving with 10 parts of water, it soothes the burning effects of the razor.

Ladies should for the benefit of their general health use it once a day in their private ablutions; about one tablespoonful of **GLYCO-PHENIQUE** for every pint of lukewarm water.

A teaspoonful of **GLYCO-PHENIQUE** in a glass of water is excellent as a gargle or spray in **recent or chronic sore throats**, and is of special advantage to persons having a tendency to affections of the throat. Under this form it is particularly recommended to **Speakers, Orators, and vocal Artists** as an unsurpassed tonic and vigorous soother of the vocal chords. The same dilution is used as an **ANTISEPTIC DENTIFRICE** or **MOUTH-WASH** in preference to any so-called preparations, and corrects the **taste** as well as the **odors** resulting from the use of **tobacco**.

Mixed in equal parts with sweet oil or yolk of eggs and applied by a gentle friction on the parts affected, it relieves promptly the most acute pains of **inflammatory Rheumatism** and **Gout**. The same mixture spread over **BURNS** and **SCALDS** prevents suppuration and soreness.

Two tablespoonfuls of **GLYCO-PHENIQUE** in a pint of water make a superior cheap disinfectant, acting as a preventive for **croup, scarlet fever, small pox, and any contagious**

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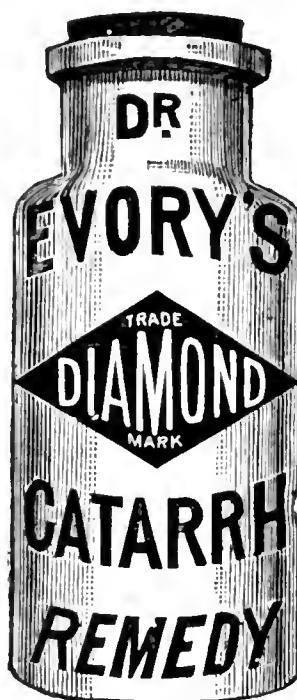
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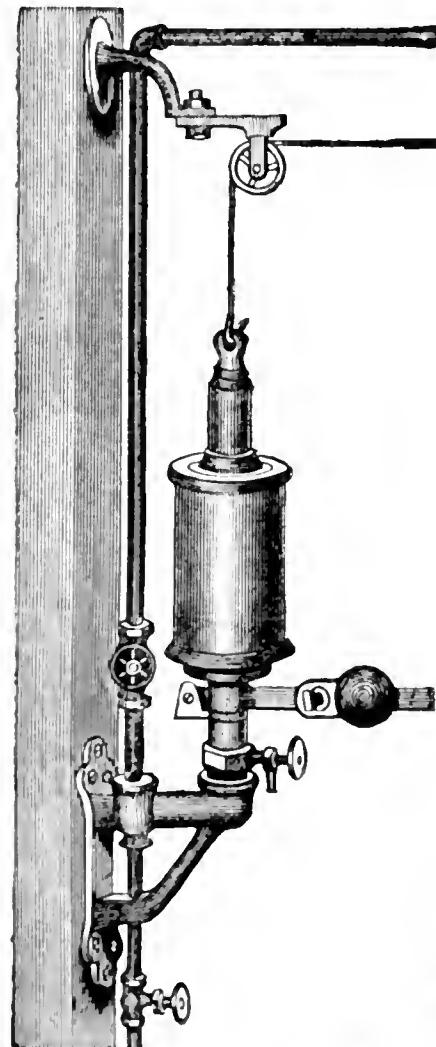
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TRY IT.

It gives immediate relief. It has cured the most stubborn cases, not only of CATARRH, but INFLUENZA, HAY FEVER, BRONCHITIS, DEAFNESS, removed POLYPUS, and effectually exterminates that most offensive Catarrh condition, foetid and sickening breath. Restores the sense of smell, strengthens the voice, eyes, etc. Price 50 cents, by all Druggists. Descriptive pamphlet free to any address, on application.

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